

the proud parents of two girls, Marilyn and Joyce. In 1941, the family moved to Helena. Although Carter died in 1970, Grace kept the family going. She now dots on her seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Grace worked for the accounting firm of Galusha, Higgins, & Galusha until her retirement in 1976. Then, in 1980, it was the beginning of her career with the State of Montana. Grace is certainly a role model not only for active seniors but also for so many young people across our state. She has been blessed with good health and uses her talents to help others.

On behalf of all Montanans, I would like to congratulate you, Grace, for your help in making our state truly the "last best place!" Mr. President, I yield the floor.●

TRIBUTE TO BLUEMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a group of outstanding students from the state of Kansas. Cindy Garwick's first grade class from Bluemont Elementary School in Manhattan, Kansas, has been chosen as a finalist team in the Toshiba/National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Exploravision Awards Program.

The NSTA Exploravision Awards Program is the largest K-12 student science competition in the country. This year, there were nearly 5,000 entries from more than 17,000 students in the United States and Canada. The class was chosen as a finalist for this prestigious award for their invention display prototype, "The DNA Door Open."

It is difficult to imagine how much time and energy was spent on this project by these outstanding young students. The award that they have received is a testament to their hard work and dedication. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge Bluemont Elementary School's first grade class for the honor they have received. I congratulate them and wish them continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO DONALD BODETTE—A VETERAN'S VETERAN

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen hero. His name is Donald Bodette and he passed away last August 10th after a long battle with cancer. However, his legacy lives on and he will be honored on June 14th at the Dodge Development Center in Rutland.

Don retired from the Marine Corps in 1968 and received a Purple Heart for wounds sustained in Vietnam. For those of us who knew Don, this information was a well kept secret. He was never inclined to tell you about his heroics. He did tell war stories as a way to draw other Vietnam Veterans out of their isolation. Don's theory was a very simple one and is the premise

used today to help Vietnam Veterans worldwide—discussing traumatic war experiences with another veteran with a similar experience is the best way to heal.

An article in The Rutland Herald on August 12, 1997 announced that Donny had passed away, at age 48, at the VA hospital in White River Junction. As I read, I was struck by some of the tales recounted by his fellow veterans. Three of Don's best friends, Jake Jacobsen, Albert Trombley and Clark Howland, talked about meeting Don through a newspaper ad that only said, "Vietnam Veterans, we need to talk." According to Trombley, "He didn't have any master plan. He would stop and look for people, he would put advertisements in the paper to get veterans to come out, and once he found one or two, they would find two or three. He got all around the state of Vermont."

In the late 1970s, Don was instrumental in shaping the course of a fledgling organization known as the Vietnam Veterans of America (VA). He believed that the VA should be more than an activist group, and Don was so successful in his efforts to establish local chapters that Rutland, Vermont boasts the first VA chapter in the country. According to Jake Jacobsen, "Donny and I never worried about membership. If we're good enough, they'll want to join us."

Don helped found the Veterans Assistance Office (VAO) in Rutland sixteen years ago. It was designed as a non-profit community based organization to support veterans in a variety of different ways. The VAO still serves in that capacity today. The VAO's current director, Clark Howland, says of Bodette, "I owe him a lot. He helped an unknown number. I'd say it would run in the thousands of veterans. And what we're doing now is just to carry on for what Donny started."

Farewell Don. Your legacy of service will live on through your selfless acts that improved the lives of countless Vermont veterans.●

CBO COST ESTIMATE—S. 1275

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, when the Committee filed its report on S. 1275, the Northern Mariana Islands Covenant Implementation Act, the cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office was not available. The estimate has since been received and I ask that it be printed in the RECORD for the information of the Senate.

The cost estimate follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 8, 1998.

Hon. FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 1275, the Northern Mariana Islands Covenant Implementation Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts are John R. Righter

(for federal costs), Marc Nicole (for the state and local impact), and Ralph Smith (for the private-sector impact).

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL,
Director.

Enclosure.

S. 1275—Northern Mariana Islands Covenant Implementation Act

Summary: S. 1275 would amend the covenant act between the United States and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), a territory of the United States, to reform the immigration laws of CNMI. It also would establish a special committee to set minimum wage rates by industry within CNMI. The estimated cost of S. 1275 depends on whether the Attorney General would elect to apply the provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to CNMI. If the Attorney General (AG) decided not to apply the INA, CBO estimates that, on average, implementing S. 1275 would increase annual costs by less than \$500,000, subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts. If the AG did apply the INA, as modified for CNMI by S. 1275, CBO estimates that, subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts, implementing S. 1275 would increase costs—mostly at the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)—by less than \$500,000 in fiscal year 1999 and a total of between \$7 million and \$8 million over the 1999-2003 period.

In addition to the increase in discretionary costs, S. 1275 also could affect direct spending if the AG applies the INA to CNMI; consequently, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. CBO estimates, however, that any change in direct spending would have no significant net budgetary impact each year.

S. 1275 contains intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) because the bill would preempt the immigration and minimum wage laws of CNMI. CBO estimates that the costs of such mandates would not be significant and that the threshold for intergovernmental mandates established in UMRA (\$50 million in 1996, adjusted annually for inflation) would not be exceeded.

S. 1275 contains private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Section 2 would impose a mandate on employers by limiting the number of temporary alien workers who could be legally present in CNMI. Section 3 would impose a mandate on employers by increasing the minimum wage which they would be required to pay their employees; the amount of the mandated increases in wages would be determined by an industry committee established as a result of enactment of this legislation. CBO cannot determine whether the direct cost to employers of those mandates would exceed the \$100 million inflation-adjusted annual threshold specified in UMRA.

Description of the bill's major provisions: Within one year of enactment, S. 1275 would require that the AG determine whether CNMI possesses the institutional capacity to administer its own system of immigration control, consistent with minimum safeguards selected by the AG, and the will and commitment to enforce the system of immigration control. During this period, the bill would limit the number of temporary alien workers on CNMI to the number of individuals present at the date of enactment. If the AG determines that CNMI has both the institutional capacity and the commitment, then the INA would not take effect, although the bill would require that the AG make a new determination every three years thereafter.

If the AG determines that CNMI lacks either the institutional capacity or the political will to enforce its own system of immigration control, the bill would require that